

(Washington, DC)— The U.S. House of Representatives today passed a bill containing a number of provisions secured by Congresswoman Gwen Moore (D-Wisc.) that will improve health care, education and workforce services in Milwaukee. The House version of the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Act of 2010 directs \$950,000 to Milwaukee non-profit agencies that provide education and workforce services, as well as care for low-income individuals, children, the disabled and other vulnerable populations.

“People in Milwaukee are hurting – unemployment is at 12.3 percent, and people who are losing their jobs are also losing their access to the health care they rely on. With these provisions, health care and other services for Milwaukee’s most vulnerable will be expanded, which is critical because our vulnerable populations keep growing. This bill continues the 111th Congress’ commitment to providing vital support to our neighbors in need and creates jobs that are needed to revive the economy.”

Milwaukee Public Schools will receive \$110,000 for ten Summer Community Learning Centers, which will help provide recreation enrichment activities as well as nutrition and health education to more than 6,000 youth during the summer months. These funds would be used for staffing, recruitment and general administration.

“We are extremely grateful to Representative Moore for helping to champion the effort to secure a federal earmark for the Milwaukee Public Schools Community Learning Centers (CLCs),” said Milwaukee Public Schools Superintendent William Andrekopoulos. “Through partnerships with nine Milwaukee area community-based organizations and the resources provided by the earmark award, we will be able to offer a comprehensive Summer CLC program to support continued learning opportunities and access to nutritious meals for thousands of our community’s neediest youth. This type of programming is essential to keep students on track during the summer months so that they return to school in the fall ready to learn.”

Milwaukee Health Services would receive \$100,000 to expand its MLK health center facility, which would allow for additional health care services to be provided to women and infants, as well as early intervention services that help prevent young women from getting pregnant or contracting an STD. Oral health will also be expanded through dental services.

“Milwaukee Health Services, Inc. (MHSI) is excited about the possibility of receiving funds to expand its MLK Heritage Health Center site because this type of expansion means that some of

Milwaukee's most vulnerable citizens will have an increased opportunity to access quality medical care," said MHSI Project Manager Karen Aronson. "For example, we will be able to extend the hours that we offer behavioral health services and we will be able to reduce the amount of time that our patients have to wait to be seen by a dentist. As a Federally Qualified Health Center, MHSI has always been on the front line of dealing with the problems facing our nation's health care system and this funding will serve to support us as we continue in these efforts."

United Migrant Opportunity Services, (UMOS) Inc. Latina Resource Center will receive \$100,000 for teen pregnancy and STD prevention. The Latina Resource Center provides programming to teach Latina teens pregnancy and STI prevention, as well as the fundamentals of healthy relationships free of emotional and physical abuse. Milwaukee faces one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the country.

"We are truly grateful to Congresswoman Gwen Moore for securing funds for United Migrant Opportunity Services (UMOS) Latina Resource Center," said President and CEO Lupe Martinez. "As Milwaukee continues working to reduce its high teen pregnancy rate – especially among Latina females – these funds will enormously help. The Latina Resource Center will be able to continue offering its teen pregnancy and STD prevention curriculum, thereby proactively teaching women about their bodies, health and how to protect themselves."

Alverno College will receive \$100,000 to establish a Research Center for Women and Girls. Its research will focus on timely issues important to women and girls, such as the impact of the economic downturn on female wage earners. Reports resulting from its research will be distributed in print and electronic form throughout the Midwest.

The Center's resource center and Web site will provide a one-stop gathering place for information and reports on the status of women and girls in the region. Its educational programs will range from small classes to major outreach programs through its Web site and speaker series. It also will offer a special series of educational programs for southeast Wisconsin girls in collaboration with organizations such as Girl Scouts, Pearls for Girls, and other groups.

"Congresswoman Gwen Moore's support for the Research Center for Women and Girls at Alverno College is significant and will advance our region's capacity to meet the social and economic challenges facing women and girls in metro Milwaukee," said Kathleen O'Brien,

Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs. “This support will make possible new and valuable information on evidence-based practices in support of sound public policy, and also enhance the data and evaluation capacity of girl-serving agencies in our community. We are grateful for Congresswoman Moore’s ongoing advocacy on behalf of women and girls in our community.”

Additional Moore provisions included in the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2010 are:

\$300,000 for University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Public Health: These funds will go toward the creation of a Public Health Impact Institute within the UWM School of Public Health and in partnership with the city’s Health Department. The first focus of the new institute will be creating healthy birth outcomes in Milwaukee, including reducing domestic infant mortality, teen pregnancies and pregnancy-related hospitalizations. The institute will also work to increase the involvement of fathers in infant care. In Milwaukee, the Department of Health reports that the infant mortality rate is the seventh worst among 53 major U.S. cities.

\$100,000 for Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership and BIG STEP: In 2005, Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership and BIG STEP partnered to spearhead the Center of Excellence for Skilled Trades and Industry (COE), which recruits underemployed and unemployed individuals and prepares them for new opportunities in the construction industry. These funds would be used to hire 4.5 full time employees, purchase supplies, cover local travel costs and pay for meeting expenses for the COE’s “Growing a Regional Workforce Intermediary Project,” which seeks to identify growing industry sectors in Southeast Wisconsin and ensure that the workforce has the skills necessary to fill these jobs.

\$100,000 for IndependenceFirst, Inc.: These funds will support staff salaries for the Milwaukee Central City Satellite Project for People with Disabilities. This initiative of the IndependenceFirst – a nonprofit center for independent living for people with disabilities – aims to provide neighborhood-based independent living and employment support services to the disabled, especially youth and victims of violence.

\$40,000 for Variety (the Children’s Charity of Wisconsin): These funds are for Variety’s “Kids on the Go!” program, which provides low-income families with durable medical products like wheelchairs, walkers and prosthetic limbs that allow them to be more mobile. Oftentimes, these products are not covered by insurance. These funds would be used to purchase products and increase staff.

Variety is a nonprofit formed in 1935 to provide life-saving and life-enriching assistance to children challenged by physical and mental disabilities, poverty, abuse and neglect.

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